

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for completing an e-mail transmission, comprising:

5 receiving a user input indicating that an e-mail message
has been completed;

 parsing said e-mail message for clues indicating that an
attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended;

 determining whether or not said attachment has been
10 attached to said message; and

 in response to determining that said attachment has not
been attached to said e-mail message, generating a user prompt
to indicate to a user that an attachment to said e-mail message
is likely intended.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said user input indicating
that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input
instructing an e-mail program to send said e-mail message.

20 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said user input indicating
that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input
instructing an e-mail program to save said e-mail message.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said clues comprise keywords and wherein said method further comprises collecting keywords from user input to create a set of keywords, and wherein said parsing is performed by matching members of said set of keywords with words within said e-mail message.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said clues comprise file names, wherein said parsing detects file names within said e-mail message, and wherein said user prompt is generated to include a query asking said user whether or not a file specified by said file name should be attached to said e-mail message.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said clues comprise phrases and wherein said parsing further includes decomposing sentences within said e-mail message to detect phrases indicating that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said clues comprise phrases and wherein said method further comprises collecting key phrases from user input to create a set of key phrases, and wherein said parsing is performed by matching members of said set of key phrases with sentences within said e-mail message.

8. A system for completing an e-mail transmission, comprising:

a memory for storing program instructions and data;

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said
program instructions; and

5 a user input device coupled to said processor for receiving
user input, wherein said program instructions include
instructions for

receiving a user input indicating that an e-mail
message has been completed,

10 parsing said e-mail message for clues indicating that
an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended,

determining whether or not said attachment has been
attached to said message, and

15 in response to determining that said attachment has
not been attached to said e-mail message, generating a user
prompt to indicate to a user that an attachment to said e-mail
message is likely intended.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein said user input indicating that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input instructing an e-mail program to send said e-mail message.

5 10. The system of Claim 8, wherein said user input indicating that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input instructing an e-mail program to save said e-mail message.

11. The system of Claim 8, wherein said clues comprise
10 keywords, wherein said program instructions further comprise instructions for collecting keywords from user input to create a set of keywords, and wherein said program instructions for parsing match members of said set of keywords with words within said e-mail message.

15 12. The system of Claim 8, wherein said clues comprise file names, wherein said program instructions for parsing detect file names within said e-mail message, and wherein said program instructions for generating a user prompt generate a query
20 asking said user whether or not a file specified by said file name should be attached to said e-mail message.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein said clues comprise phrases,
and wherein said program instructions for parsing further
include program instructions for decomposing sentences within
said e-mail message to detect phrases indicating that an
5 attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said clues comprise phrases,
and wherein said system further comprises program instructions
for collecting key phrases from user input to generate a set of
key phrases and wherein said program instructions for parsing
match members of said set of key phrases with sentences within
said e-mail message.

15. A computer program product comprising signal-bearing media containing program instructions for execution within a general purpose computer, wherein said program instructions comprise program instructions for:

5 receiving a user input indicating that an e-mail message has been completed,

 parsing said e-mail message for clues indicating that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended,

 determining whether or not said attachment has been
10 attached to said message, and

 in response to determining that said attachment has not been attached to said e-mail message, generating a user prompt to indicate to a user that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

16. The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said user input indicating that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input instructing an e-mail program to send said e-mail message.

5

17. The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said user input indicating that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input instructing an e-mail program to save said e-mail message.

18. The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said clues comprise keywords, wherein said program instructions further comprise instructions for collecting keywords from user input to create a set of keywords, and wherein said program instructions for parsing match members of said set of keywords with words within said e-mail message.

19. The computer program produce of Claim 15, wherein said clues comprise phrases, and wherein said program instructions for parsing further include program instructions for decomposing sentences within said e-mail message to detect phrases indicating that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

20. The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said clues
comprise phrases, and further comprising program instructions
for collecting key phrases from user input to generate a set of
key phrases and wherein said program instructions for parsing
5 match members of said set of key phrases with sentences within
said e-mail message.